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ZNR UUUUU ZZH
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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0599
INFO RUCNNSG/NUCLEAR SUPPLIERS GROUP COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY 0722
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY 2142
RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY 2108
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RUEHUNV/USMISSION UNVIE VIENNA PRIORITY 0536

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FOR STATE ISN/RA R. MONGIELLO

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [AORC](#) [PREL](#) [MNUC](#) [TRGY](#) [IR](#) [RS](#)
SUBJECT: RUSSIA ON IRAN'S UPCOMING NUCLEAR CONFERENCE ON 30
NOVEMBER 2008

REF: STATE 112229

(SBU) On October 27 ESToff delivered reftel non-paper regarding Iran's upcoming international conference on nuclear energy, the environment and sustainable development to MFA Head of the Iranian Desk Maxim A. Baranov. An experienced regional expert on Iran and Afghanistan, Baranov remarked that he had heard nothing about this conference, but that he would report the information to his superiors. He commented that as no one had been invited, he could not say what influence the GOR might have on any potential attendee. Baranov said that based on his years living in Tehran as a Russian commercial expert and diplomat, he was not surprised that the Iranians would hold such a conference. "The Iranians love conferences" he said. He indicated that often, these conferences are arranged by universities as a mechanism for the more advanced students to organize and manage such events, not necessarily for what actually comes out of the conference itself.
BEYRLE